

**Mayor and City Council of New Castle  
Workshop and Regular Council Meeting  
New Castle Town Hall—Delaware Street—New Castle  
Tuesday May 11, 2004—6:15 PM**

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

President Castagno  
Councilperson Miller

Councilperson DiAngelo  
Councilperson Reese

Councilperson Padmalingam was absent for the initial roll call, but arrived before the regular meeting convened.

**Others Present:**

Treasurer Janet Carlin, Director of Human Resources Marian Delaney, Police Chief Kevin Mc Derby, City Health Officer Herb Swanson, Director of Public Services Jim Weldin

President Castagno convened the workshop at 6:23 PM and led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

Director of Public Service Jim Weldin presented information on Ordinance 425 for recycling yard waste. He warned that because the Delaware Waste Authority is running out of space, recycling is critical. He also distributed copies of a brochure that describes the provisions of the ordinance, and reported that the brochure is one of several to be distributed to City residents. Subsequent brochures will explain code enforcement and building permits.

He advised leaving grass on lawns to self-mulch, thus providing valuable nutrients. However, if desired, residents can bag grass clippings or place them in cans. Plastic bags must be left open to facilitate dumping. Two workers have been allocated to collect grass on Wednesdays, from April 1, 2004, to October 31, 2004, when no other trash collection is scheduled. Composting is going well, and he expects the City's method of composing to be odorless. A DENREC consultant anticipates no problems with the plans.

Mr. Weldin noted that much of New Castle's trash contains a great deal of grass; in fact, as much as 3/4 of the City's trash is grass. He revealed that 313.12 tons had been collected in April at a cost of \$18,849.49. He wants to turn over the recycling to a private organization, which could turn yard waste into a profitable enterprise. This would eliminate the City's need to collect yard waste and to maintain a site for its disposal. The State provides a mechanism to sort yard waste, but it is prohibitively expensive. He said that the New Castle uses mulch throughout the City, and cited Battery Park as an example. Next year City residents will have access to the mulch.

Mr. Weldin identified the City's next goal to be recycling newspaper. As an experiment, he took 50 pounds of newspaper dumped it in a hole and covered it to see how quickly and effectively it decomposes. The results were encouraging. Diverting newspaper could save 3300 total tonnage.

Councilperson DiAngelo asked if the Trustees are aware that the City uses Trustee property. Mr. Weldin advised him that the City has permission to use Trustee property.

Councilperson DiAngelo reported that his neighbor at 734 West Twelfth Street complained that the City did not pick up his grass. Mr. Weldin reported that the grass in question was probably too heavy, and that in the future the City would have stickers to identify why the grass was not collected.

Councilperson Miller asked if tree limbs and trees must be taken to the curb. Mr. Weldin said that they must be taken to the curb and explained that there will be a special curbside pickup for tree limbs. They will then be chipped. Christmas trees are already chipped.

Councilman DiAngelo asked if brochures would be mailed with utility bills. Mr. Weldin replied that utility bills are too small to accommodate the brochures and that he plans to have a separate mailing.

Councilperson Miller revealed that the City had once separate grass from household trash. President Castagno reported that recycling will probably become a state law within the year.

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President Castagno called the regular meeting of the New Castle City Council to order at 7:00 PM. All members of the Council were present for the regular meeting. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilperson Reese moved to accept the agenda. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes by Date**

President Castagno called for approval of the April 13 and April 22, 2004, minutes by date. Councilperson DiAngelo moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Carlin reported that as of April 30, 2004, petty cash totaled \$270.00; monthly deposits totaled \$215,270.86. Cash in Wilmington Trust accounts totaled \$211,944.36. Cash in Certificates of Deposit and the Government Investment Pool totaled \$31,576.19. Total cash on hand equaled \$243,520.55. Councilperson Reese moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Communications**

**Police Chief Kevin Mc Derby** introduced Andrew Hoff and Ronald Warne, New Castle's two new bike officers. Both are students of the University of Delaware; both have an interest in the

Criminal Justice System. After a week's training on May 4, 2004, they will be on duty from Separation Day until Labor Day.

He also reported on the following:

The Citizen's Police Academy was in its fourth week and of that of the 12 people who signed up, 11 people had attended the classes. Graduation ceremonies will be held following a week's hiatus.

The Academy is only one of many organizations using the Community Room of the Municipal Building. He considers the Community Room one of the better features of the building. President Castagno asked if an officer must be present when a meeting is in progress. Chief McDerby explained that because the lobby and the Community Room are separate, the group meeting would not have access to the rest of the building. Thus, no officer need be present.

An officer investigating a suspicious vehicle confiscated over 1000 grams of crack cocaine (almost a pound of cocaine), the largest seizure ever uncovered in the Farmers' Market area. The fact that bail was set at \$800,000 indicates the magnitude of the offense.

In response to a complaint by Evelyn Chambers concerning vehicles parked the wrong way on Booker Circle, police officers posted warnings on 28 cars parked the wrong way throughout the City.

There will be a continuing dialogue about the Buttonwood Association's interest in closing off the roadway from Collins Park to Buttonwood Avenue because of the large number of accidents there.

**Director of Human Resources Marian Delaney** reported on the City's finances.

The general fund balance as of May 13, 2004, was \$92, 970. The City deposited the first MSC reserve on May 2, 2004. Last week the City paid \$63,000 in accounts payable and \$20,000 for employee and employer contributions to the April pension payment

The Building Department collected \$45,000 in fees. This included \$36,000 for the Deemer property and \$8,000 for the BJs' deli.

In attempting to consolidate posting categories, the City has created a technology line item. Departments will share the telephone system, T1 point-to-point connections, computer software, and consulting. Travel for professional development will be moved to the HR department. Each department will have the same amount to spend on travel as approved in the budget. Another suggestion involves combining the Building and the Public Works Departments under Public Services.

The City pays \$27,000 a month in premiums to the State of Delaware health care program. The employees have a choice of Blue Cross or Coventry. A 14% increase in premiums will go into effect in July.

The City will advertise in the *Wilmington News Journal* for a program coordinator for a six-week program to be held at Battery Park only. David Skupien will oversee the program.

The City advertised in the *Wilmington News Journal* for a letter of interest to supply City insurance. Interviews have been scheduled for two of the groups that responded.

### **Department Directors' Reports**

**Director of Public Services Jim Weldin** reported on the progress of the Delaware Street wharf railing. The low bidder was Backflips with a lump sum bid of \$33,367. The City has \$10,000 of this sum. Bob Martin submitted a letter to the Trustees asking for help in the amount of \$23,367.

Street paving is tied into the Ninth Street rebuild. The County must replace the old terra cotta sewer there. After a number of meetings, City delegates went out with a representative from the County. They did test bores to determine the street's original base. The County will rebuild the entire sewer line down to eight feet and up to where the asphalt will begin.

Still to be determined is whether to build a 30-foot street or a 36-foot street. A 36-foot street would provide for more on-street parking. A related issue involves extending the drainage pipe and widening the culvert to let more water pass through.

Mr. Weldin met with Jeff Bergstrom and David Athey to discuss analytical approaches to street paving. The short-term plan involves identifying the streets needing repair in order of priority. The City engineer has estimated the cost. Subsequent meetings will consider how to rebuild the streets and how to pay for the work required.

The Greenway construction project has solicited bids, with a pre-bid walkthrough scheduled from Eighth and Young Streets to Route 273. Closing date for bids was May 25, 2004. Six companies expressed interest.

Mr. Weldin, Jeff Bergstrom, and City Architect David Athey met to discuss the Washington Square drainage situation. DelDOT needs to replace the State-maintained undersized drainage line on Delaware Street and Route 273. The drainage line runs out to a pipe in the Washington Square area, which is also undersized. DelDOT will address the issue. Tetra Tech, Mr. Weldin, and Councilperson DiAngelo did the topography study for the project. They will meet again the day after the Council meeting to decide on a plan. Subsequently, they will meet with DENREC to determine the best plan of action and the funding options.

Councilperson Reese asked about the status of plans for West Third Street. Mr. Weldin revealed that plans for that street are still in the discussion stage. President Castagno, who addressed the Brosious Eliason situation, noted that there was a discrepancy in the survey. He has asked Mr. Shoemaker to present a correct survey so that the City can do the necessary history of Third Street. The City is waiting for the corrected survey.

Councilperson Reese asked if people can see the drawings of how the Deemer project will look. They want to be assured that the buildings will be upscale apartments. Mr. Weldin replied that

the City has building plans, but not architectural plans. He will contact Jeff Bergstrom to investigate how to acquire the necessary plans. Councilperson DiAngelo revealed that Mr. Keller has architectural plans. Mr. Weldin said that those plans lack pictures and colors.

Councilperson Padmalingam asked for an update on plans for updating certain streets needing repair that City Administrator Martin identified. He also asked about promises to resurface a basketball court in a New Castle neighborhood. Mr. Weldin replied that the City hasn't made a final payment on the last project. Once the final payment is made, he will then know how much money is available, and the Council will determine how the money is to be used.

President Castagno called for a motion to accept the directors' reports. Councilperson Miller moved to accept the Directors' reports as submitted. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Communications**

Councilperson DiAngelo read a letter from Francis Patterson of the **Municipal Services Commission** (MSC) that references a letter from Marian Delaney, dated May 5, 2004. Ms Delaney's letter revealed that the Council had passed a balanced budget for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, but that budget did not include \$365,000 in unbudgeted construction expenses, other site work, and remediation expenses. MSC's letter approved the use of MSC reserves if necessary to help the City through a cash-flow short fall. It further stated that at its March 30, 2004, MSC agreed to make \$300,000 in additional funds available to carry the City through the current fiscal year. This sum is in addition to its yearly contribution. The Council can draw on these funds when and if necessary.

MSC also made available its annual (2004-2005) \$400,000 contribution in July. The purpose is to help the City operate until September, when real estate taxes are due. However, MSC urged that the Council devise a budget for 2004-2005 that is sufficient to meet the City's obligations. The letter further stated that MSC will no longer make supplemental funds available.

### **Comments from the Floor**

**Earl Carpenter** asked Mr. Weldin if he had consulted the University of Delaware's detailed study of 2001 about the condition of the streets. Mr. Weldin said that he had read the report and that some of the information was helpful and some was outdated. The report made recommendations for every street in the City, plus a priority rating, and a cost analysis. Mr. Weldin, Jeff Bergstrom, and David Athey have not had time to go through the entire report. Mr. Athey disclosed that the study was a Technology Transfer Center report sponsored by DelDOT. The basic gist of the study is that when a street starts to deteriorate, it decays rapidly. The secret is to repair streets before they deteriorate beyond easy repair. He thinks that some streets since that study are at the critical point. Mr. Weldin pointed out that some streets might be too disintegrated to repair and urged repairing streets before they reach that state. He would like to have a special meeting to make a presentation to the Council. Mr. Athey recommends an ongoing maintenance and repair program.

**John Houben of Washington Park** asked if the City had received MSC monies. Ms. Delaney replied that the City had received the first reserve of \$100,000 on May 6, 2004. She revealed that \$300,000 is available when and if necessary and that the 2004-2005 yearly appropriation of \$400,000 will be given as a lump sum in July.

**Herb Swanson** commended Police Chief McDerby and his men on their outstanding performance.

### **Business from the Mayor**

There was no business from the Mayor.

### **Business from the Council President**

There was no business from the Council President.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Ordinance 425, Recycling:** President Castagno notified those present that the Council had held a workshop at 6:15 to discuss the proposed ordinance and invited them to take copies of the draft brochure that explains the ordinance. He announced that the first reading was March 9; the second reading, April 15, and that the current reading was the third and final reading. He then read the ordinance. Councilperson Reese moved to accept the motion. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Recycling for the entire City will start June 1, 2004.

### **New Business**

**Petition from the Castillian Club:** The St. Gabriel Lodge asked the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission to grant a temporary extension to permit the club to serve alcohol on their premises on weekends and Wednesday evenings in May, June, July, and September. They requested the extension because of their sports and picnic activities during the months cited. Councilperson Miller reported that the club made an annual request, and that the City had received no negative feedback. She moved to accede to the request. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation on Code Enforcement Initiatives:** Mr. Weldin explained the salient points of the Code Enforcement Ordinance in a Power Point presentation and displayed a sample brochure to be distributed to residents. Jeff Davis recommended also giving each new resident a copy of the code-enforcement brochure.

Mr. Weldin emphasized that the purpose of the ordinance is "to improve the quality of life in our City." The ordinance is in accord with the National Standard Code that most areas in the country

observe. The Code Enforcement Officer will investigate any violation not investigated by the police. The presentation is attached.

One significant change in the ordinance is that a complainant need not come to the City Office Building to fill out a complaint form. Complaints can now be submitted by mail, email, FAX, or telephone. Mr. Weldin next distributed an example of a complaint about high grass and detailed the procedure involved. He noted that complaints are assigned to the Code Enforcement Officer, who can be reached at 322-9813. In the new procedure, Code Enforcement Officer write a computerized report that lists the violation and the time frame for compliance, then contact the violator.

He also photographs the violation with a digital camera. The resultant photos will be stored on a computer for easy accessibility when needed. After the prescribed time has elapsed. The Code Enforcement Officer will then re-inspect the property to ensure that the violations have been eliminated. If not, additional citations will be issued, which may involve civil or criminal penalties. The Code Enforcement officer's vehicle will be marked with an identifying City seal and a telephone number.

Councilperson Reese asked about the Code Enforcement Officer's hours. Mr. Weldin responded that he, Jeff Bergstrom and Herb Swanson all investigated code violations. Rob Chambers works a varying schedule in the evenings on weekdays, every other Saturday, and every other Friday during the day.

**Herb Swanson** asked who investigates rowdy groups loitering on street corners. Mr. Weldin responded that the police do and cited the broken window theory, which essentially says that if you allow petty offences to continue, eventually they will escalate into major crimes. Code enforcement is strongly tied into that philosophy. In like manner, if property is allowed to deteriorate, people develop an "I don't care" attitude. He cited as an example a man at a Knollwood community meeting who had meticulously maintained his property for years. He stated that he was about to give up because of the rundown conditions in the community.

**Earl Carpenter** reported that he saw two men carrying a suitcase soliciting door to door. He asked if they should have been reported to the police. Chief McDerby advised him to call the police.

Councilperson Padmalingam asked about the criteria for determining if a car has been abandoned. Mr. Weldin advised him to call the police if the car is on the street or to call code enforcement if it is on private property. Councilperson Padmalingam asked about the criteria for complains about abandoned cars. Mr. Weldin replied that all cars must be operational and licensed. Even if a car is licensed, if it has a flat tire, it is considered abandoned because it is not operational.

**Friends of New Castle City Parks and Beautification Donor Program:** President Castagno called upon Councilperson Padmalingam to provide background about the program. Councilperson Padmalingam stated that he had been assigned responsibility for the City's five major parks and several smaller ones. He noted that the \$5,000 allotted to the parks is woefully inadequate.

As a solution, he suggested contacting businesses to contribute to the parks. He noted that if 10 or 15 businesses contributed, significant improvements could be made. He cited Happy Harry's as an example of a business likely and able to contribute.

Ned Hutchinson complained that the City "doesn't give one red cent" to the parks, nor does the City contribute to the library or fire services. He questioned the use of his county taxes. He objected that his taxes go to clean up Battery Park every week. He noted that the County has money, but the Trustees don't want to take it. He further maintained that the County won't give money because the Trustees own the park.

Councilperson Padmalingam then read the resolution to solicit donations to improve parks and playgrounds through the creation of an organization to be called the Friends of New Castle City Park and Unification Donor program. The program will establish guidelines for the management of private donations. Councilperson Miller asked if the City is soliciting businesses for money to improve parks and playgrounds. She doubted that any City business could afford to underwrite the expense of playground equipment. President Castagno named Happy Harry's and BJ's as examples of business that could afford to contribute significant amounts. She also asked how the contributions would be managed. Mr. Weldin replied that the City would recognize contributions and that a separate account would be established for park maintenance. He further explained that even if a business couldn't afford to buy a swing set, they could buy a brick and still be recognized. Councilperson Miller then asked if the effort would be considered to be a drive. Mr. Weldin replied that the easiest way would be to include a brochure containing information about the program when business licenses are mailed.

Herb Swanson noted that as a business person, he was frequently asked to donate gift certificate. He also stated that the Visitors' Bureau contributes to the City from their yearly Antique Show proceeds. Some of the City's trashcans were gifts of the Visitors' Bureau.

**Ned Hutchinson** asked how the City can have beautification when trash and cigarette butts are all over the City. He especially complained about the debris outside restaurants and noted that the City's restaurants do not provide butt cans. He also noted that the park contains excessive trash. He complimented the work of the Beautification Project in placing planters throughout the City.

President Castagno called for a motion to accept the resolution. Councilperson Reese moved to accept the program. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Authorization for the Public Services Director to Seek Grant Funding for the Washington Park Drainage Program:** Councilperson DiAngelo reported that Tetra Tech has completed a study of the problem and that he would meet with Tetra Tech the next day to discuss the Washington Park drainage problem. He has a Monday meeting scheduled with DENREC to determine solutions and costs in the hopes of acquiring grant money. Plans have been drawn up for possible solutions, and the meetings are the start of arriving at a solution. The Planning Commission is considering assisting with grants.

President Castagno asked about the sources of grant money. Mr. Weldin answered that significant grant money exists. One of the things that DENREC is interested in is water quality. The area between the railroad tracks and Seventh Street is marshland. Significant grant money exists for marsh revitalization.

He pointed out that the area is tidal marsh, which doesn't drain well. Car oil and fertilizer runoff from certain City streets pollute the Delaware River. Mr. Weldin noted that DENREC wants water runoff to be clean before it goes into the river. He said the City can achieve this by allowing the water to sit long enough for vegetation to cleanse it. Councilperson Reese asked if this involved property on the other side of the railroad. Mr. Weldin said that something would have to be worked out. Councilman Reese also noted that when a former mayor learned that Delaware City had been granted more money than New Castle, he attended every possible meeting in Dover to solicit more money. He suggested that the City should do the same. Mr. Weldin revealed that he was investigating every possible funding source, but it takes consistent interaction with members of the Delaware Assembly.

Councilperson DiAngelo called for a motion to permit the Public Services Director to actively seek out grant money. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **The Mayor's Appointments to the Planning Commission:**

Councilperson DiAngelo read a letter from Mayor Klingmeyer, in which he nominated three people to the Planning Commission: George Freeberry, Thomas Wilson, and James Steele. Their terms will expire in 2007. Councilperson Miller moved to accept his nominations. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilperson DiAngelo commented that the Mayor knows that he has two more appointments, that he has qualified people in mind, and that he is confirming their desire to serve.

He also disclosed that the Commission is thoroughly reviewing the code and that it will take a few months before they complete the code changes. He said that not many residents attend Planning Commission meetings and urged those assembled to do so.

#### **Comments from the Floor**

**George Freeberry of Washington Park** thanked the Council for approving his appointment to the Planning Commission. He commented that New Castle County has a local service function. As a result, County taxes were reduced for 17 years. The City has its own parks, library, and playgrounds. He complained that many residents are renters who neglect the properties they rent. On Thirteenth Street, for example, half the residents are renters. He protested that Code enforcements can push property owners into bankruptcy.

**Eugene Petty of the Buttonwood Civic Association** again requested that F Street to Howell Drive into Buttonwood be closed. That night, a child was struck, knocked 30 feet, and seriously

injured. He questioned why the Street can't be closed before someone is killed. President Castagno told him that the issue was part of Chief McDerby's report about the procedure for closing a street. He said that the Buttonwood Civic Association would have to close the street.

**Chief Petty** also asked why Buttonwood Park had been closed, leaving children no place to play but the street. Mr. Weldin replied that defective playground equipment had to be removed as the result of an audit by the City's insurance company.

After he was certified, Mr. Weldin inspected all City playground equipment and removed that which did not conform to national standards. The equipment at the Buttonwood site was in poor condition and could have jeopardized the life of a child. The other problem is that neither the City nor the Trustees own Buttonwood Park. Rather, it is owned by a private individual. As a result, the City's insurance would not cover injuries incurred at the Buttonwood Park playground. Chief Petty questioned why the playground could not be insured since the property was willed to Buttonwood 40 years ago. Mr. Weldin then revealed that other factors made removing the equipment necessary, including a drainage culvert that constitutes an attractive nuisance.

Chief Petty insisted that something has to be done to provide Buttonwood children with a playground. Mr. Weldin assured him that a search is in progress to find land for a playground in Buttonwood. However, the City not only needs a location for the park, but the money to purchase necessary playground equipment. He and Councilperson Padmalingam have met to try to find private money to buy the land for the park and the playground equipment.

**Mary Ann Caven** addressed the ordinance concerning parades and public assemblies. She observed that Doris Toll had to acquire a permit for a private social gathering. She called the City and was told that a \$50 permit is required for a gathering of more than 25 guests. She has gathered signatures for the revocation of that part of the ordinance. She plans to present it at the June meeting after Separation Day. President Castagno revealed that the ordinance has received considerable attention and referred the issue to Mr. Weldin. Mr. Weldin revealed that the ordinance does not require a permit for private parties if they do not impede traffic flow. President Castagno noted that the ordinance applies only to private parties on public property.

**Ned Hutchinson** complained that he paid \$50.00 for a private party on Fourth Street. He asked for a refund. Councilperson Miller noted that the party was a block party held on Trustees property.

**John Houben** brought with him a copy of Ordinance 399, and questioned the effectiveness of code enforcement activities. Mr. Weldin informed him that he had cut the high grass on West Thirteen Street, although he did not have time to do the yard next to it. Mr. Houben complained that abandoned property at 719 West Eleventh Street has grass three feet high. He also said that in Washington Park there are abandoned cars, old trailers, and other debris. He asked when these problems were to be addressed. President Castagno reminded him that he must report the problems. Mr. Weldin asked him to provide the names and addresses of violators. Mr. Houben complained that the Code Enforcement Officers do not use time wisely. Mr. Weldin reminded Mr. Houben that investigating complaints requires time. Councilperson Reese pointed out that Mr. Weldin listed 50 complaints that Code Enforcement Officer Rob Chambers had investigated,

and that was only a partial list. President Castagno urged Mr. Houben to work with Mr. Weldin in the interest of better communication.

**John DiMondi** complained that the Sailing Club violates the City's parking ordinance every weekend. Members are supposed to park on the Brosious Eliason lot; instead they disrupt the neighborhood and park on front lawns. He objects to the City spending money on Third Street. He also objected to giving the Sailing Club Fifth Street. It's a dedicated street and the City can't give it away without permission from Dover.

He thinks residents should be notified if the Council spends a significant amount of money from Municipal Services. He worried that the Council will lack discipline because of the money from MSC. He wants a resolution passed that will prohibit spending more than half of MSC funds until after the first of the year. He reminded the Council that neither MSC nor the Trustees will give the City additional money.

Ned Hutchinson cited the *Wilmington News Journal* article concerning DuPont's plans to import water used to detoxify VX gas and dispose of it in the Delaware River. Delaware owns the Delaware River to the high water mark up to the Jersey shore. He questioned why DENREC didn't protest that water from New Jersey will contaminate the river. He wants the Council to write a resolution to Governor Minner and to Governor McGreevy to express opposition to the plan.

Councilperson Reese wants the Council to write a letter to the governor of New Jersey expressing its opposition.

Another problem is that the Corps of Engineers is planning to dredge the river. Our water supply depends on deep wells. If one of those aquifers is punctured, serious problems will result.

**James Steele** of Washington Park agreed with Mr. Hutchinson's comments on the dangers to the river. He also commented on the two sliding boards and the ball field that were once in Battery Park. He thinks the Historic Area Commission should be involved because the slides' advanced age and the many children who used them make them an historic part of the park.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Councilperson Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Reese seconded the motion. Councilpersons DiAngelo, Miller, Padmalingam, and Reese all voted to accept the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2004, in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Darcy Mozer, City Clerk